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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I write to inquire about the status of the Department of Justice's extradition request for Mr. Dmitry Firtash.

In 2014, Firtash was arrested in Vienna, Austria, because of a U.S. warrant and released on a \$172 million bail. A U.S. grand jury then indicted Firtash under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act on charges that included bribery, racketeering, and money laundering. These charges centered on an \$18.5 million bribe offered to officials in India related to titanium mining licenses.

Prior to Ukraine's Maidan Revolution in 2014, Firtash was the Kremlin's principal partner in corruption schemes involving the trading of Russian natural gas in Ukraine. RosUkrEnergo, a company owned jointly by Firtash and Gazprom, acted as an "intermediary" in the gas trade and was given a monopoly on Russian gas imports and transit. By manipulating natural gas prices, the Kremlin used RosUkrEnergo as a tool to keep Kyiv dependent on Moscow. Firtash was a direct agent of the Kremlin in this transfer-pricing scheme.

Despite his arrest, Firtash has continued to engage in corruption in Ukraine, reaping hundreds of millions of dollars in illicit profits. This corruption undermines Ukrainian reform efforts that the United States strongly supports. Although RosUkrEnergo no longer exists, Firtash still controls intermediaries in the Ukrainian gas industry.

Under Ukrainian law, Ukraine's state-owned gas company, Naftogaz, is obligated to sell gas to these intermediaries, which are intended to purchase this gas and resell it to end-users. Knowing this, Firtash accepts the gas and sells it to end-users, but he refuses to pay Naftogaz and pockets the revenue. This scheme is estimated to have cost Ukraine \$2 billion thus far, with \$1.5 billion going directly to Firtash, which he uses to finance his legal fight against extradition.

I appreciate your time and attention to this request. I look forward to an update regarding your Department's extradition request.

Since this,

Roger F. Wicker
Chairman
U.S. Helsinki Commission